

09/530013  
416 Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 APR 2000  
PATENT  
32-254P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SHIMIZU, Hiroyuki et al.  
Int'l. Appl. No.: PCT/JP98/01470  
Appl. No.: New Group:  
Filed: April 24, 2000 Examiner:  
For: METHOD FOR INHIBITING DECOMPOSTION  
OF NATRIERETIC PEPTIDES AND  
IMPROVED METHOD FOR ASSAYING  
NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES WITH THE USE  
OF THE SAME

#3/A  
9/4/00  
N

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

April 24, 2000

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before line 1, insert -- This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP98/01470 which has an International filing date of March 31, 1998, which designated the United States of America. --